

REMARKS

There are now pending in this application claims 1-16 and 18-20, of which claims 1 and 19 are independent. Claims 17 and 21-32 have been cancelled without prejudice or waiver of their subject matter. No claims have been added.

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, favorable reconsideration and allowance of the above application is respectfully sought.

Applicant submits herewith replacement drawings for Figures 6, 16B and 17. In combination with the above amendments to the specification, Applicant respectfully submits that the objections to the drawings have been addressed and overcome.

More specifically, Applicant respectfully submits that reference sign “115a” appears at least in Figures 15A and 16A. Reference signs “115b” and reference sign “104b” have been deleted from the specification and reference sign “2011” on page 47 of the specification has been corrected to read as reference sign --201 l--. As for the various references to R and L in the specification, Applicant respectfully submits that these are not in fact reference signs but are merely references to “right” or “left” in the drawings.

Applicant has added reference numerals --115-- and --200-- to Figure 6 to identify the side cover and photo tray, respectively. Moreover, the entirety of Figure 17 has been labeled with reference numeral --200-- to correspond to the photo tray, as described on page 14, lines 14-16 of the specification. In addition, reference numeral “200” also appears in Figure 1 as well.

Applicant has changed reference character “5b” in Figure 16B to reference character --5g-- and has also changed the corresponding location in the specification at page 44, line 18. This change addresses the objection based on duplicate use of reference character “5b”.

Applicant respectfully submits that the above amendments to the specification and drawings address each of the grounds of rejection to the drawings and that those objections should now be withdrawn.

Applicant has also amended the Abstract to place it in proper form so that it no longer exceeds the allowed length and no longer utilizes legal phraseology.

Applicant has also reviewed the specification and corrected all noted informalities therein, including those specifically cited by the Examiner. Entry of those amendments is respectfully sought.

The invention as now set forth in independent claim 1 recites a sheet supplying apparatus comprising a first stacking portion that stacks sheets therein, a second stacking portion that stacks sheets therein and is movable relative to the first stacking portion in the sheet supplying direction, and a supplying roller that supplies a sheet stacked in the first stacking portion or the second stacking portion. The invention is further characterized in that the supplying roller supplies the sheet stacked in the first stacking portion when the second stacking portion moves upstream in the sheet supplying direction, and the supplying roller supplies the sheet stacked in the second stacking portion when the second stacking portion moves downstream in the sheet supplying direction.

Independent claim 19 is directed to a recording apparatus which incorporates the sheet supplying apparatus of claim 1.

The claims previously on file were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by the Hewlett-Packard OfficeJet 600 Series Device (hereinafter “HPOJ”). In view of the rewriting of the claims in the above application, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

As noted above, the present invention is now characterized in that the supplying roller which supplies a sheet stacked in a first stacking portion or a second stacking portion supplies the sheet stacked in the first stacking portion when the second stacking portion moves upstream in the sheet supplying direction and supplies the sheets stacked when the second stacking portion moves downstream in the sheet supplying direction. By utilizing this configuration, the sheet supplying apparatus of the present invention allows for the supply of a plurality of types of sheets while maintaining a compact structure.

The cited HPOJ reference features an apparatus that has a first stacking portion and a second stacking portion. However, Applicant submits that there is nothing in this reference which suggests or teaches that the sheets stacked in the first stacking portion are supplied when a second stacking portion moves upstream in the sheet supplying direction or that the sheets stacked in the second stacking portion are supplied when the second sheet stacking portion moves downstream in the sheet supplying direction. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that the invention as now set forth in each of independent claims 1 and 19 does distinguish over the art of record.

The remaining claims in this application are dependent claims which depend either directly or indirectly from one of the above-discussed independent claims and are therefore patentable over the art of record for reasons noted above with respect to the independent claims. In addition, each recite features of the invention still further distinguishing it from the applied art. Favorable and independent consideration thereof is respectfully sought.

Lastly, Applicant respectfully submits that the above rewriting of the claims has addressed the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, since the objected-to language

has been deleted or rewritten. In addition, Applicant has eliminated the means plus function portions and thus respectfully submits that the request for a formal statement identifying the corresponding and the structure in the specification is now moot.

Applicant submits that all outstanding matters in this application have been addressed and that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the above application is respectfully sought.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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